Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Economic Activity

The Alberta Activity Index (AAX) was up 3.6% year-over-year (y/y) in December and is up 5.1% for 2017. Alberta's real GDP by expenditure fell by 3.7% in 2016, the largest drop among the provinces for the second year in a row.

NEW: Population

Alberta's population was 4,318,772 as of January 1, 2018, an increase of 1.4% from the year prior. Canada's population grew 1.3% from a year ago.

NEW: Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 5,599 in the fourth quarter of 2017. During this time, Alberta welcomed 5,297 net international migrants, while there was a net inflow of interprovincial migrants (+302) for the second consecutive quarter after in eight quarters of outflows.

Employment[1]

The economy added 2,300 jobs in February, as gains in part-time positions more than offset a decline in full-time positions. Employment rose 2.0% y/y, reflecting employment gains in both the goods (+4.8% y/y) and services (+1.0% y/y) sectors.

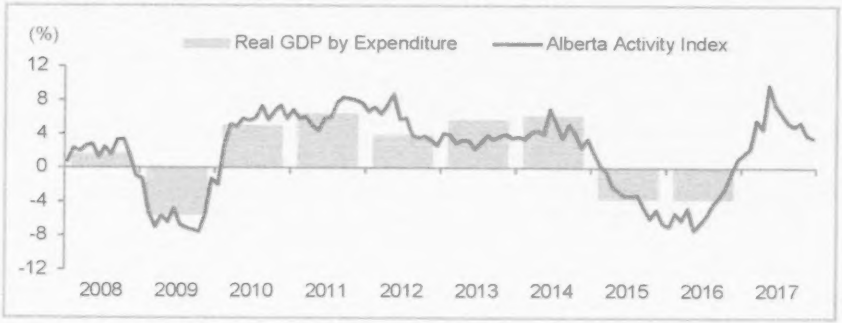
Unemployment Rate[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point to 6.7% in February. Canada's unemployment rate ticked down 0.1 percentage point to 5.8%.

Rigs Drilling

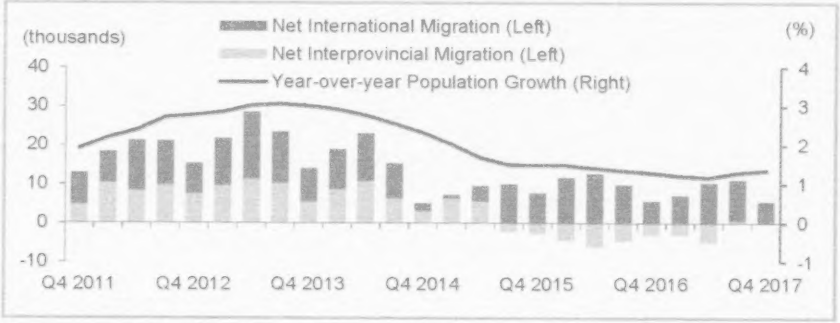
The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 216 in February, up 15% y/y. The average rig utilization rate was 52%, up from 43% a year ago.

Economic Activity
Year-over-year % change



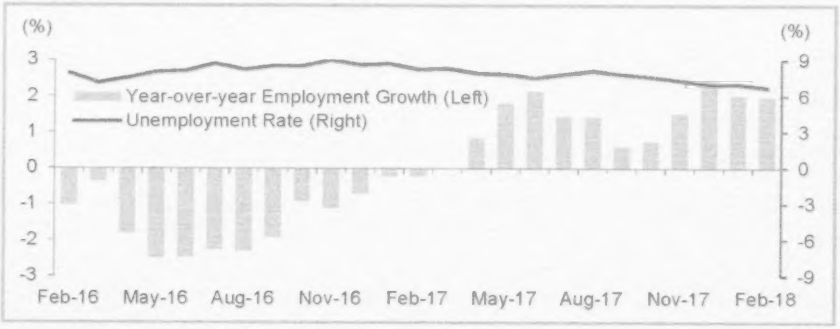
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

NEW: Inflation

The annual Inflation rate in Alberta jumped by 0.8 percentage points to 2.2% y/y in February. Inflation excluding food and energy prices was up 0.4 percentage points to 1.4% y/y.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta ticked up by 0.1% m/m in December to $1,149. Earnings increased 1.2% y/y as gains in services sector earnings more than offset declines in the goods sector.

NEW: Retail Sales[1]

Alberta retail sales rose 0.5% m/m to $6.8 billion in January. Retail sales are up 2.1% y/y, the fourteenth consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

Housing Starts[1]

Alberta housing starts fell by 3.5% m/m in February to 24,301 units (annualized). They were down 8.5% y/y, with declines in both multi-family (-14% y/y) and single-family starts (-7.2% y/y).

New Housing Price Index

In January, Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) ticked up by 0.1% y/y. The house-only component was unchanged, while land prices were up (+0.4% y/y).

Building Permits[1]

Alberta building permits eased by 13% y/y in January to $1.1 billion, as increased residential permits (+5.3% y/y) was more than offset by a decline in non-residential permits (-33% y/y) .

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact

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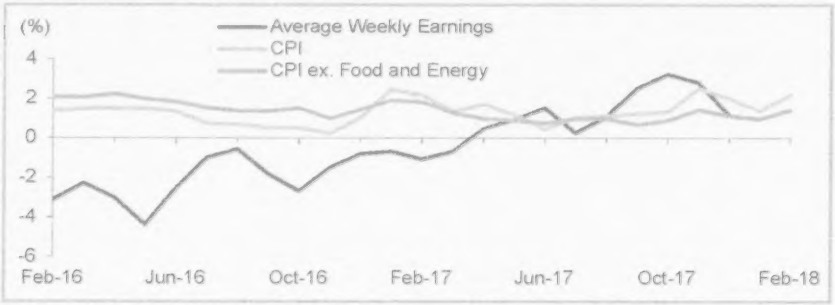
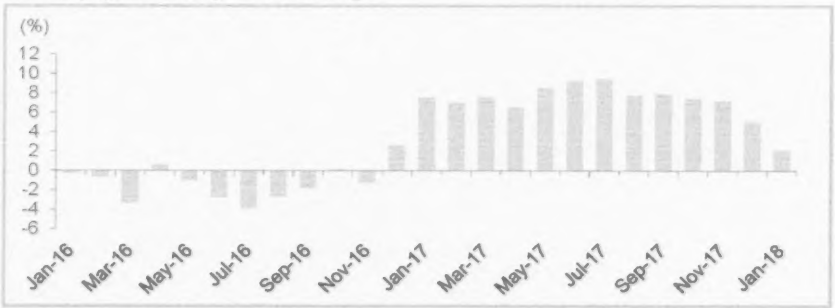
Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

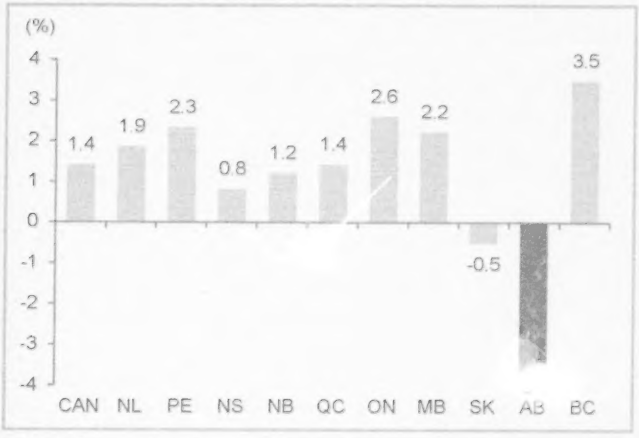
Housing Market
Monthly

Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

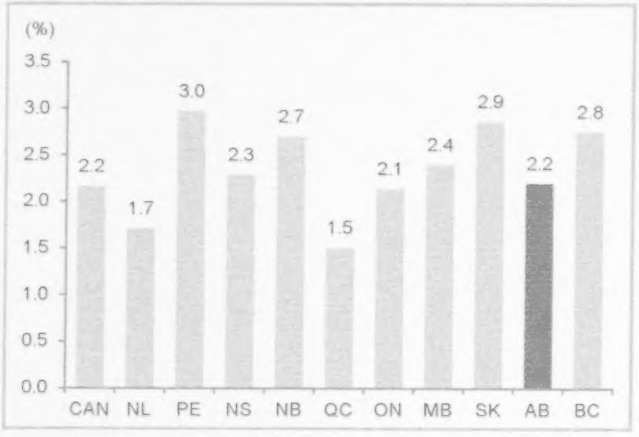
	Canadian Dollar (US¢/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest (March 22, 2018)	77.47	64.30	2.62	1.74 (January)
Fiscal year-to-date	77.98	53.32	2.97	1.85

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

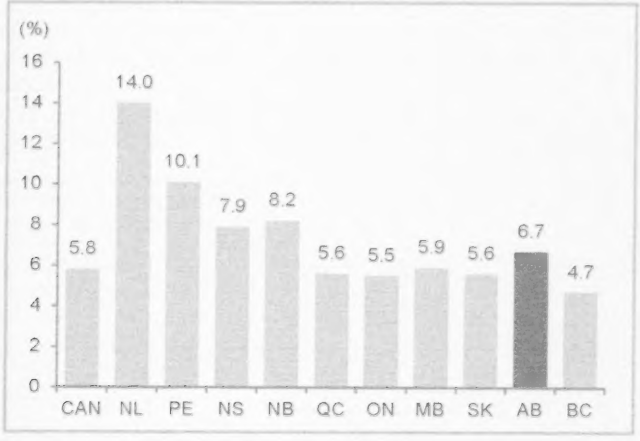
Real GDP by Expenditure
(2016, year-over-year growth)



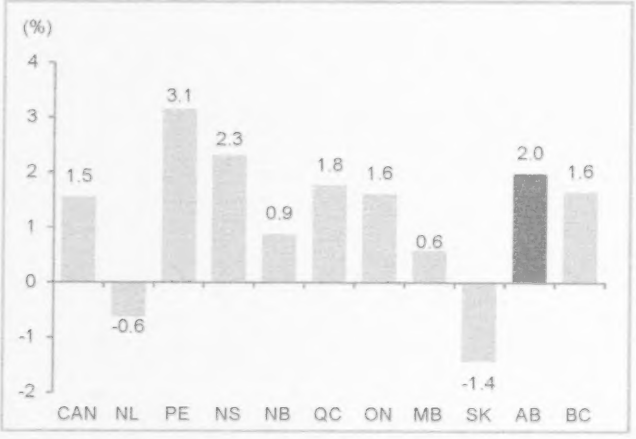
CPI Inflation
(February 2018, year-over-year growth)



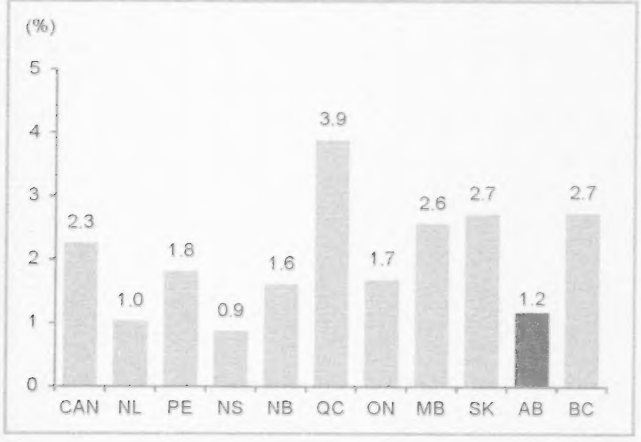
Unemployment Rate
(February 2018)



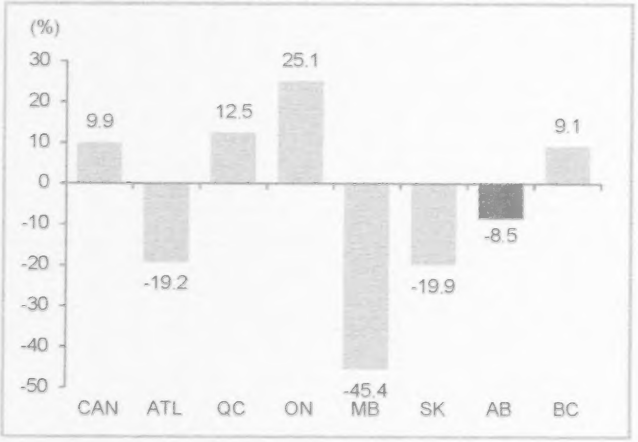
Employment
(February 2018, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(December 2017, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(February 2018, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

	2016	2017	2018YTD	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	-4.4	5.1		4.9	5.4	3.9	3.6		
Population[1]									
NEW Population (thousands)	4,236	4,286	4,319		4,306			4,319	
y/y % change	1.4	1.2	1.4		1.3			1.4	
NEW Net Interprovincial Migration	-15,108	-15,131	1,045		743			302	
NEW Net International Migration	42,103	33,210	15,660		10,363			5,297	
Labour Market									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,264	2,287	2,316	2,252	2,293	2,300	2,320	2,315	2,317
m/m change (thousands)				5.2	10.5	7.1	20.4	-6.9	2.3
y/y % change	-1.6	1.0	2.0	0.6	0.8	1.6	2.4	2.0	2.0
Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	8.1	7.8	6.9	7.8	7.6	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.7
Participation Rate (%, SA)	72.5	72.4	72.1	72.0	72.2	72.1	72.4	72.2	71.9
Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA)	1,119	1,129		1,144	1,140	1,147	1,149		
y/y % change	2.4	1.0		2.5	3.2	2.8	1.2		
Household Sector									
NEW Retail Sales ($ million, SA)	75,110	80,752	6,796	6,749	6,793	6,779	6,760	6,796	
y/y % change	-1.2	7.5	2.1	8.0	7.5	7.2	5.0	2.1	
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	224	249	16	23	20	19	16	16	
y/y % change	-7.6	11.2	7.5	0.8	17.4	0.7	0.5	7.5	
NEW Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.5	2.0	1.4	2.2
Excluding Food & Energy	1.7	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.4
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	24.5	29.5	24.7	29.2	29.7	34.7	23.3	25.2	24.3
y/y % change	-34.2	20.1	9.4	2.7	16.5	37.7	-11.2	34.9	-8.5
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	-0.5	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	
Resale Home Sales	54,798	57,166	9,621	4,822	4,507	4,755	5,678	5,003	4,618
y/y % change	-7.6	4.3	2.7	-0.9	9.9	11.5	17.8	3.9	-9.0
Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.50	0.49	0.53	0.47	0.47	0.50	0.58	0.54	0.51
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands)	397	398	396	393	390	387	386	395	398
y/y % change	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.9	0.2	-3.2	-4.6	0.9	0.6
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	5,427	5,008		404	450	403	350		
y/y % change	-26.3	-7.7		11.5	2.3	13.3	-12.7		
Business Sector									
Goods Exports (customs based,$ million)	79,213	100,292	10,072	7,431	8,453	8,441	9,103	10,072	
y/y % change	-14.3	26.5	18.5	5.7	1.6	7.4	14.8	18.5	
Energy Products ($ million)	51,594	69,594	7,441	4,985	5,785	5,818	6,528	7,441	
y/y% change	-17.5	34.9	20.8	4.7	24.2	5.3	17.8	20.8	
Agricultural Products ($ million)	6,284	7,314	685	502	741	664	607	685	
y/y % change	2.9	16.4	9.1	6.2	35.3	7.1	9.6	9.1	
Rigs Drilling	79	131	207	127	133	143	155	197	216
y/y% change	-34.0	66.0	6.9	59.7	31.2	32.4	2.9	0.9	15.1
Manufacturing Shipments ($ million, SA)	62,703	71,282	6,289	5,885	6,066	6,164	6,222	6,289	
y/y% change	-8.9	13.7	11.3	10.7	15.1	12.2	11.3	11.3	
NEW Wholesale Trade ($ million, SA)	71,765	79,420	6,847	6,689	6,796	6,754	6,857	6,847	
y/y% change	-9.6	10.7	10.1	13.9	15.1	13.6	11.3	10.1	
Building Permits ($ million, SA)	14,200	14,245	1,092	1,470	1,007	1,288	1,130	1,092	
y/y% change	-15.2	0.3	13.3	30.5	-52.8	18.1	35.4	-13.3	
Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	7,930	8,400	678	692	607	715	760	678	
y/y % change	-19.7	5.9	5.3	-0.6	-58.8	13.6	69.7	5.3	
Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	6,270	5,845	414	779	401	574	371	414	
y/y% change	-8.8	-6.8	-32.8	80.6	-39.4	25.7	-4.3	-32.8	
Non-Res Building Cons Price Index[2] (y/y % change)	-2.8	0.5		0.9			1.2		

[1] Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30). The current census year 2017.

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate. All annual data is unadjusted.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except the Alberta Activity Index (Alberta Treasury Board and Finance), Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada). All historical data are subject to revision